National Coalition of TB People in India

One person dies every minute from TB in India. TB is a silent killer that is preventable and curable, if the society at large comes together to fight it. There is an urgent need to make affected voices heard from varied groups to fight TB. Currently, TB is highly medicalised and the voice of the community is absent, thereby creating a situation of no demand generation. This has caused a big gap in the TB response.

Indian participants at the *Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for TB Survivors* organised by REACH and the Stop TB Partnership in New Delhi on April 13, 2017 recognised this gap and felt the need to come together and form a coalition to ensure that the community voice is heard in India.

**First meeting**

Key roles and responsibilities were assigned during the first meeting of the group on April 13th 2017. Blessi Kumar and Dean Lewis of GCTA were nominated as coordinators of the group. Five regional heads were also chosen.

In the weeks that followed, the name *Touched by TB* was agreed on and press releases were sent to key national and international publications. Touched by TB has been steadily moving ahead, responding to current events in the TB scenario and making sure that the community’s voice is heard, loud and clear.

**Second meeting**

With the support of REACH, Touched by TB held its second meeting in Delhi on July 15, 2017. Key ministry officials were present at this meeting. Members of Touched by TB discussed the way forward and put governance measures in place.